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imported *viâ* Kiachta, consisting mainly of cloth and raw leather, the Russian merchants are allowed to detain for disposal at Kalgan, which appears to be a large centre of distribution. The duties on this portion are collected at Kalgan. The remaining four-fifths of the goods pass on to Tien-tsin, and pay there. When the goods are once sold at Kalgan they cannot be repurchased, as no trade is sanctioned there. On one occasion, however, this was managed privately in the case of leather; and an endeavour was made to break through the rule generally, but without success. The chief export trade to Russia is of course, tea. Russian tea-tasters are said to reside on the tea-hills near Hankow, and to make their own selections from the teas there grown. The tea they purchase is packed and sent by steam to Shanghai, whence it is forwarded, also by steam, to Tien-tsin, where every chest is certificated by the Russian Consul. The Russian tea is the largest item of freight that the steamers carry from Shanghai to Tien-tsin. From Tien-tsin the tea is forwarded to Tungchow in barges, where the resident Russian merchants pack it on the backs of camels, and send it on by direct route (without passing through Peking) to Kalgan. The resident Russians at the last-named place thence pass it on to Kiachta across the Mongolian desert.

"It will thus appear that the Russian merchants reside and do some sort of business at these places, where we have not asserted our claim to reside. They work in companies, and by means of their own Russian interpreters; their business seems to progress without ruffle or disturbance. We might, perhaps, with advantage claim the same privileges for our merchants; though, from what we learn from the failures at Tient-sin in the competition with the Chinese merchants, there is no reason to hope that our people would be more successful at Tungchow and Kalgan than they have been at Tient-sin. The Russians have the transport business, which is their great standing, failing all other trade. Our trade would simply be general, and would have to struggle against Chinese competition; and, as the expenses of Chinese establishments and of Chinese mode of transport must inevitably be less than those of our people, the British merchant would gain little advantage by such privilege to trade. The right of residence in the Hankow tea-hills, I must leave till I visit that neighbourhood.

"Mr. Mongan, Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin, in his report on inland residence and navigation, writes with regard to Kalgan or Chang-chia Kôw: 'Were British subjects allowed to reside at Chang-chia Kôw, the pass by which the trade from Tien-tsin flows into Western Mongolia, and finds its way to the great marts of Lama miao and Kwei-hwa-ching, they might teach the Mongolians how to improve their breed of sheep and prepare the wool for exportation with a result that would benefit both teachers and pupils, and tend to increase, in no small degree, the value of the export trade from Tien-tsin.'"

4. *On the Failure of Earthquake Predictions in Peru.* By the HON. W. G. S. JERNINGHAM, Chargé d'affaires at Peru.

(Communicated by the FOREIGN OFFICE.)

"MY LORD,

"British Legation, Lima, 12th October, 1869.

"The great apprehensions which, it would appear, the inhabitants of South America, from Panama even to Ancud in Chili, have been labouring under, that earthquakes were to happen in these regions of the earth on the 30th of September or 1st of October, in consequence of a belief in the theory of a German astronomer, M. Falb, who, in a pamphlet which was translated into Spanish and published, called the attention of the inhabitants of those countries which are the most exposed to earthquakes, viz., equatorial regions,

and particularly Peru and the West Indies, respecting the danger menacing them, have happily subsided without any disaster having occurred anywhere in the territories this side of the Andes.

"On the 27th September, in Lima, a very slight movement of the earth was experienced, and on October 3rd another about quarter-past 12 A.M., with some noise; but on the 30th of September, 'the much dreaded day,' and the 1st of October, this part of the earth seems to have remained particularly quiescent, and even at Arequipa, where terrestrial movements have been more or less the order of the day since the 13th August last year, the recent 'dangerous period,' that has excited such general alarm, passed by without any 'temblores,'—on the contrary, it has been remarked that the last fifteen days there were the most tranquil they have experienced since the cataclysm of the memorable 13th of August, 1868.

"At Arica and Tacna, places that were visited in August this year with a good shaking, nothing happened, and Iquique, where the inhabitants were in a great state of anxiety, has neither felt an earthquake nor been washed again by a tidal wave. On the 5th October, the day on which the moon was said to have been nearest the earth, high tides and sea-invasions were expected, and at Callao a great many of the inhabitants had previously left the place and retired to Bella Vista and other places. But as the sea presented no great change, and no cataclysm has happened, people have returned to their dwellings, and trade and work have recommenced to recover the time lost by these general apprehensions.

"After what has happened many times in Peru, Chili, and Ecuador, since the discovery of these countries, and the terrible commotion last year in various parts of them, it is no wonder the inhabitants become alarmed when astronomers and scientific men attempt to warn them of the advent of possible catastrophes."
